

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7 and 15 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 to 4, 9 to 14 and 16 to 18, as follows.

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1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:
an image sensor;
storage means for storing predetermined data;
display means for displaying the predetermined data stored in said storage means;
designation means for designating by user input ~~an arbitrary point which is to be linked to an image to be taken~~ on the predetermined data displayed on said display means an arbitrary point which is to be linked to an image to be taken; and
generation means for automatically starting an image-taking operation when an arbitrary point is designated by said designation means, and for generating link information linking the image taken in the image-taking operation and such that an image is taken by said image sensor after the arbitrary point is designated by said designation means, and then link information is generated which represents that the taken image is linked to the arbitrary point designated by said designation means.

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2. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising addition means for adding the link information generated by said generation means to the predetermined data or the ~~taken~~ image taken in the image-taking operation.

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3. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said storage means further stores the image taken in the image-taking operation by said image sensor.

4. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said generation means generates link information such that ~~any taken an~~ image taken in an image-taking operation is linked to the same arbitrary point as an image taken in an immediately previous image-taking operation point unless another arbitrary point is designated by said designation means.

5. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined data is data representing a map.

6. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein images may be stored in said storage means in a hierarchical fashion according to the link information and/or such that the images are linked to each other.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

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8. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising display controlling means for controlling a displaying process such that, when said image pickup apparatus is in an image reproducing mode, if a point having link information or a particular area adjacent to the point on the predetermined data is designated by said designation means, then an image indicated by the link information as an image corresponding to the designated point is displayed.

9. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined data stored in said storage means is an the image taken by said image sensor or an image input from an external device.

10. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the link information generated by said generation means includes information indicating the arbitrary point designated by said designation means and also includes identification information of an the image taken by said image sensor.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an image pickup apparatus, comprising:

~~an image sensing step;~~

a displaying step of displaying predetermined data stored in a storage unit;

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a designation step of designating by user input ~~an arbitrary point which is to be linked to an image to be taken~~ on the predetermined data displayed in said displaying step an arbitrary point which is to be linked to an image to be taken; and

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a generation step of automatically starting an image-taking operation when the arbitrary point is designated in said designation step, and generating link information linking an image taken in the image-taking operation and such that an image is taken in said image sensing step after the arbitrary point is designated in said designation step, and then link information is generated which represents that the taken image is linked to the arbitrary point designated in said designation step.

12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of controlling an image pickup apparatus~~, according to Claim 11, further comprising an addition step of adding the link information generated in said generation step to the predetermined data or the ~~taken image taken in the image-taking operation.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of controlling an image pickup apparatus~~, according to Claim 11, wherein said generation step includes generating generates link information such that any taken an image taken in an image-taking operation is linked to the same arbitrary point as an image taken in an immediately previous image-taking operation point unless another arbitrary point is designated in said designation step.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of controlling an image pickup apparatus;~~ according to Claim 11, wherein the predetermined data is data representing a map.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of controlling an image pickup apparatus;~~ according to Claim 11, further comprising a display controlling step of controlling a displaying process such that, when said image pickup apparatus is in an image reproducing mode, if a point having link information or a particular area adjacent to the point on the predetermined data is designated in said designation step, then an image indicated by the link information as an image corresponding to the designated point is displayed.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of controlling an image pickup apparatus;~~ according to Claim 11, wherein the predetermined data is the image taken in the image-taking operation ~~said image sensing step~~ or an image input from an external device.

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of controlling an image pickup apparatus;~~ according to Claim 11, wherein the link information generated in said generation step includes information indicating the arbitrary point designated in said

designated step means and also includes identification information of the image taken in the image-taking operation ~~said image sensing step~~.

19. (Original) A storage medium storing a program for executing the method of controlling an image pickup apparatus according to Claim 11.

20. (Original) A storage medium storing a program for executing the method of controlling an image pickup apparatus according to Claim 13.

21. (Original) A storage medium storing a program for executing the method of controlling an image pickup apparatus according to Claim 16.